Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 005536

20
ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

SAJ-01 IO-14 DPW-01 /102 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP
APPROVED BY EA/P: AHROSEN
---------- 068632
R 102120Z JAN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
USDEL JEC PARIS
USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 005536

COGARD FOR POLAD

.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
SUBJECT: JANUARY 10 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. FIELD REPORTS SAY FANK OPENS COUNTEROFFENSIVE AIMED AT TRAPPING REBELS BELIEVED MASSING FOR ATTACK ON PP OR POCHENTONG. FIGHTING HEAVIEST AND CLOSEST UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 005536

TO CAPITAL SINCE AUGUST AS GKR TROOPS SUPPORTED BY APCS STRIKE "INSURGENT" FORCE FIVE MILES WEST OF PP. BOTH SIDES SUFFER SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES. US SOURCES SAY REBELS HAVE ABOUT 18,000 TROOPS IN AREA TO TRY TAKE PP, BUT BELIEVE FANK WILL HOLD. POSSIBLE ATTACK

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

ON POCHENTONG MIGHT BE TO DESTROY KAF, WHICH WOULD
BE SEVERE BLOW TO GKR. FIELD REPORTS ALSO INDICATE
FANK RETREATED FROM THREE POSITIONS FROM FIVE TO 11
MILES NORTH OF PP (AP NYT, SUN; UPI, PHINQ; MCCOMBS,
WP).

2. MCCOMBS FROM PP REPORTS THAT "INSURGENTS" MOUNTING
ATTACKS NEAR CAPITAL INCLUDE FEMALE TROOPS. SIX CAPTURED
WOMEN SOLDIERS, RANGING IN AGE FROM 14 TO 22, SAY
REBEL FORCE HAS BATTALION OF 200 WOMEN (AND NO MEN)
WHO ARE FRONT-LINE TROOPS ARMED WITH M-16S. MANY
WERE ABDUCTED AND FORCED INTO SERVICE AGAINST WILL

AND RECEIVED ONLY POOR TRAINING, BUT SOME ARE VOLUNTEERS
WHO KEEP EYE ON THOSE WHO MIGHT TRY ESCAPE. FANK
OFFICIALS SAY THIS USE OF WOMEN INDICATES WEAKNESS
OF "KHMER ROUGE" AND ITS DESPERATION TO FIND ENOUGH
FIGHTERS. WESTERN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES CONFIRM THAT
REBELS HAVE BEEN FORCING PEASANTS JOIN TO FILL THEIR
RANKS. GKR HAS ALSO HAD MANPOWER PROBLEMS, BUT CONTINU-
ING RECRUITING DRIVE SEEMS FILLING IMMEDIATE NEEDS.
FANK USES WOMEN, BUT ONLY IN NON-COMBAT ROLES, AS
WAS CASE WITH REBELS UNTIL RECENTLY. BASED ON INTERVIEWS
WITH PRISONERS, MCCOMBS TELLS OF LIFE OF FEMALE REBEL
SOLDIERS WHO USED ONLY RIFLES (ONLY MEN HAD HEAVIER
WEAPONS), WORE BLACK PAJAMAS, AND WERE GIVEN ONLY
TWO WEEKS OF TRAINING IN BASIC INFANTRY SKILLS. ONE
WAS NURSE, BUT HAD RECEIVED NO MEDICAL TRAINING.
ALL CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED, AND SAID THAT DATING
WAS FORBIDDEN IN JUNGLE, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF FEAR
OF PREGNANCIES. PRISONERS WERE CAPTURED BY FANK APC
COLUMN IN THIER FIRST MAJOR BATTLE LAST SUNDAY, AND
ALL SAY THEY HAD NO UNDERSTANDING OF MISSION THEIR
UNIT WAS ON AND HAD NO CHANCE TO FIRE WEAPONS IN BATTLE.
ALL SPEAK HOPEFULLY OF GETTING HOME SOON TO SEE PARENTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 005536

3. GVN ANNOUNCES SYSTEMATIC BOMBING OF COMMUNIST
AREAS TO PREVENT OR HAMPER NEW OFFENSIVE. SAIGON
PREVIOUSLY ADMITTED BOMBING VC STRONGHOLDS, BUT THIS
IS FIRST OPEN ADMISSION OF SYSTEMATIC BOMBING (UPI,
WP).

4. AP REPORTS FROM CAN THO THAT ECONOMICS IS NEW
WEAPON IN ARSENALS OF BOTH SIDES. GVN, ITSELF TEETERING
ON BRINK OF ECON ABYSS, IMPOSES BLOCKADE TO STOP FLOW
OF VITAL SUPPLIES TO COMMUNISTS. VC AND NVA FOCUS
PEOPLE'S ATTENTION ON ECON WOES, TRY TO MANIPULATE
SYSTEM, AND MAKE CALCULATED ATTACKS ON FUEL SUPPLIES
AND GVN OUTPOSTS PROTECTING RICE SUPPLIES. ONE WESTERN
ECONOMIST SAYS NEW ECON WEAPON MAY BE LETHAL AND COMMU-

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NISTS MAY NOT LAUNCH MILITARY OFFENSIVE IN HOPE OF
GVN COLLAPSE. OBSERVERS SEE VC INCREASING EMPHASIS
ON BLOWING BRIDGES, TRYING CUT SUPPLY ROUTES AND DOING
BEST TO KEEP IMPORTANT FOREIGN INVESTMENT OUT OF SVN.
VC AND NVA RECENTLY STRUCK AT LOGGING OPERATIONS AND
COASTAL FISHING, AMONG FEW VIABLE SVN EXPORT ITEMS.
ATTACKS REPORTEDLY DID NOT CAUSE MUCH DAMAGE, BUT
PERHAPS MORE HARMFUL HAS BEEN GVN REACTION OF CLOSING
SOME LOGGING AREAS, SETTING UP SECURITY RESTRICTIONS
AND BANNING NIGHT FISHING ALONG MUCH OF COAST. BESIDES

NHA BE ATTACK, COMMUNIST GUNNERS FIRE AT TANKERS ON
RIVERS. NO EVIDENCE OF COUNTERFEITING TO DISRUPT
GVN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS EXISTS, AND ONE SOURCE
BELIEVES NOT PRACTICAL BECAUSE OF EXPENSE OF PRINTING
BILLS. GVN ECON WARFARE IS LIMITED, WITH BASIC TACTIC
ONE OF DENIAL. IN DELTA, HARVEST IS GOING ON AND
CLASHES OVER RICE OCCUR. IN AUGUST GVN BELIEVED RICE
CRISIS IMMINENT AND CLAMPED CONTROLS ON ITS COLLECTION,
MOVEMENT AND PRICING. WITH "RICE WAR," ARVN TIGHTENED
HOLD ON DELTA AND NVA AND VC, OPERATING IN SMALL UNITS,
STEPPED UP ATTACKS ON SMALL GVN POSTS. FIGHTING IS
AT NEW HIGH, AND EXPECTED TO INCREASE DURING PRIZE
HARVEST MONTHS OF JAN. AND FEB. (CHITRIB).

5. MARKHAM (NYT) WRITES OF FACTIONS ON THIEU STAFF
THAT VIE FOR POWER. POLITICAL PARTIES AND QUASI-POLITICAL
UNCLASSIFIED

SECTS NOW MORIBUND AND LARGELY IGNORED BY GVN, BUT
TWO FACTIONS HAVE COME TO FOREFRONT CLOSE TO THIEU,
THOUGH NEITHER STANDS FOR ANYTHING IN IDEOLOGICAL
SENSE. ONE FACTION LED BY THIEU COUSIN (AND OKLAHOMA
U ENGINEERING GRAD) HOANG DUC NHA, FORMER PRESIDENTIAL
PRESS SECRETARY AND "AMERICAN EXPERT" WHO WAS RECENTLY
NAMED CABINET-LEVEL COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF INFORMATION
BY THIEU. NHA IS GIVEN TO "RATHER GRANDIOSE SLOGANIZED
POLITICAL OPINIONS," CONSIDERS SELF TECHNOCRAT AND
HAS PLACED FRIENDS, INCLUDING MANY US UNIVERSITY GRADS,
IN SECOND-ECHELON POSTS THROUGHOUT GVN. OTHER FACTION
LED BY NGUYEN VAN NGAN, LAWYER AND FORMER VIETMINH
WHO SHUNS LIMELIGHT, OPERATES BEHIND SCENES,AND ACCUMU-
LATES POWER SLOWLY BUT THOROUGHLY. NGAN RUNS NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY FOR THIEU AND PLACES DEMOCRACY PARTY LOYALISTS
IN POSITIONS OF POWER. MARKHAM LIKENS NGAN TO HALDEMAN
IN WH, SAYS HE USES ASSEMBLY IN STRUGGLE WITH
NHA, AS WHEN LEGISLATORS RECENTLY GRILLED NHA ON BUDGET
AND THEN SLASHED HIS FUNDS. ASSEMBLY ALSO SENT PETITION
TO THIEU DENOUNCING NHA MEASURES IN "ADMINISTRATIVE
REVOLUTION," IN MILITARY CONTROL OF RICE MARKET, IN
"STRANGE SOUNDING SLOGANS" OF PERVASIVE ANTI-COMMUNIST
PROPAGANDA, AND ACCUSED NHA OF HARBORING CORRUPT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

OFFICIALS. NHA DID NOT REACT PUBLICLY, BUT SOME
PETITION COMPLAINTS HAVE BEEN AMELIORATED. SOME VIETS
SEE NHA-NGAN FEUD AS MIRROR OF AIMLESSNESS OF GVN
POLICY MAKINGTHAT "LUNGES FROM ONE SLOGANIZED UNDERTAKING
TO ANOTHER." FORMER HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL LIKENS
SVN NATIONALISTS TO FLIES IN BOTTLE, BEATING SELVES
AGAINST SIDES UNTIL DEAD OF EXHAUSTION.

THAILAND

6. AP BANGKOK REPORTS MASSING OF MORE THAN 4,000 THAI
STUDENTS, PROFESSORS AND OTHERS OUTSIDE US EMBASSY
WEDNESDAY DEMANDING OUSTER OF KINTNER AND CIA; ANOTHER
2,000, PROTESTING TANAKA VISIT, BARRICADED EXITS TO HIS
HOTEL (NYT, SUN, CHITRIB, PHINQ, WP; UPI, NYDN; CSM).
SUDENT MARSHALS KEPT ORDER OUTSIDE AMEMBASSY AND
DEMONSTRATION, ORGANIZED BY PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRATIC
ACTION GROUP, BROKE UP AFTER ABOUT TWO HOURS. DEMONSTRA-
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 005536

TIONS WERE SOME OF STRONGEST SINCE STUDENTS TOPPLED
MILITARY GOVERNMENT. SANYA DEPLORED DEMONSTRATIONS,
BUT DID NOTHING TO REBUKE STUDENTS. TANAKA SAID
DEMONSTRATIONS MADE HIM AWARE OF "CONCERN OF THAI
PEOPLE ABOUT THE ROLE OF JAPANESE INFLUENCE," BUT THAT
HE WILL SEE STUDENT REPS THURSDAY. AMEMBASSY SPOKESMAN
SAYS ABOUT 70 STUDENTS GATHERED AT CHIENGMAI U, WHERE
KINTNER WAS TALKING WITH FACULTY MEMBERS, AND ONE
STUDENT BROKE INTO ROOM AND BURNED PAPER US FLAG (AP).
PHOTOS SHOW STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS SETTING FIRE TO
EFFIGY OF JAPANESE AUTO (UPI WP, NYT) AND BURNING
JAPANESE-MADE TV SETS (AP CSM, CHITRIB).

7. IN BANGKOK, NYT'S CLARITY CITES "KNOWLEDGEABLE
WESTERN DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS" SAYING US-THAI RELATIONS
COULD BE SEVERELY STRAINED BY "RECENT ADMITTED" CIA
INTERFERENCE IN THAI AFFAIRS. SAYS US DIPLOMATS ARE
APPREHENSIVE ABOUT CONSEQUENCES OF INCID

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE005536
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/P:STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740174/abbrzbqt.tel
Line Count: 202
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by daviscw>; APPROVED <21-Nov-2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY 10 EA PRESS SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
DANANG
HONG KONG
NHA TRANG
JEC PARIS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COGARD
XMT SUVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005